

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /157 W
-----065032 281830Z /43

P 281728Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6577
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USMTN

USEEC

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR ACTION

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, GATT, EC
SUBJECT: SAFEGUARDS: INPUT FOR U.S.-EC BILATERAL
MARCH 8-9 IN WASHINGTON

HERE ARE SOME BACKGROUND NOTES FROM MTN DEL FOR PREPARING
ABOVE MEETING.

PROBABLE EC PRESENTATION: SAFEGUARDS NEGOTIATION IS
"GOING BACKWARDS". MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF NEGOTIATIONS
FOR SOME EC MEMBER STATES. THERE IS PROLIFERATION OF
TEXTS AND U.S. IS EVEN AMENDING THE JOINT WORKING HYPO-
THESIS OF DECEMBER. LINKED TO TARIFFS PROGRESS. BILATERAL
UNDERSTANDING NEEDED FOR OVERALL PROGRESS REPORT FOLLOWING
APRIL 10 REVIEW OR MEMBER STATES COULD BEGIN QUESTIONING
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EC INTEREST IN SUCCESSFUL TOKYO ROUND.

SUGGESTED U.S. TALKING POINTS:

A. CONTRARY TO EC VIEW, WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS.

--INFORMAL PLURILATERAL DRAFTING GROUP (LAUNCHED AT

U.S. INITIATIVE) HAS NOW MET THREE TIMES;

--KEY DELEGATIONS ARE FINALLY TAKING POSITIONS IN TEXTUAL FORM;

--THERE IS INCREASED WILLINGNESS TO TOUCH ON SENSITIVE AREAS (E.G., JAPANESE REFUSED TO HEAR ABOUT SELECTIVITY AT FIRST SESSION, BUT ACQUIESCED AT SECOND SESSION);

--PULLING TEXTS TOGETHER IN INFORMAL SESSIONS IS SAME PROCESS PREVIOUSLY USED (SUCCESSFULLY) IN NTM CODE DISCUSSIONS.

B. "PROLIFERATION OF TEXTS" SIMPLY MEANS THAT NEITHER U.S. NOR EC CAN DELIVER THIRD COUNTRIES AT THIS STAGE (E.G., NORDICS--AN EC "ALLY"-- WERE THE FIRST TO PUT IN ADDITIONAL TEXTS).

C. ON "U.S. AMENDMENTS" WE HAVE SO FAR LIMITED OUR ADDITIONAL POINTS PRIMARILY TO TRANSPARENCY AND ADEQUATE DOMESTIC PROCEDURES. EC UNDERSTOOD IN DECEMBER WE WOULD BE DOING THIS AND SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED NOW.

D. WE UNDERSTAND EC'S CONCERN ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ITS VERSION OF SELECTIVITY. WE HAVE NOT PREJUDICED EC'S OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE ITS SALES PITCH WITH JAPAN, CANADA AND THE LDCS--WHICH IT SHOULD BE DOING VIGOROUSLY IF IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WANTS TO MAKE PROGRESS. BUT POSSIBILITIES FOR A COMMON FRONT ARE CONSTRAINED BY EC'S EXTREME VIEWS ON HAVING A FREE HAND FOR SELECTIVITY. IN STRAUSS/HAFERKAMP UNDERSTANDING, U.S. HAS AGREED TO WORK COOPERATIVELY TO FIND A SELECTIVE POSSIBILITY TO MEET EC NEEDS BUT STRICTLY WITHIN AN APPROPRIATELY DISCIPLINED SYSTEM.

E. EC IS DOING ITS OWN CAUSE DAMAGE IN TRYING TO GET AWAY WITH UNILATERAL SELECTIVE ACTIONS UNDER CURRENT ARTICLE XIX PROVISIONS. U.S. CANNOT SUPPORT THAT, INDEED MUST CRITICIZE IT. THIRD COUNTRIES SEE IT AS CALLOUS ACT.

F. "PROGRESS IN SAFEGUARDS" IS A MULTILATERAL CONCEPT. EC SHOULD NOT MINIMIZE ATTENTION TO U.S. REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING COVERAGE (ESPECIALLY EXPORT RESTRAINTS), TRANSPARENCY (INCLUDING THIRD PARTY RIGHTS) AND MULTILATERAL DISCIPLINE (SURVEILLANCE-REVIEW PROCEDURES, LIMITATIONS ON MEASURES), AS IT CONCENTRATES ENTIRELY ON SELECTIVITY.

2. DRAFTED BY HARTZELL. MCDONALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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DEL FOR PR
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